

**REMARKS**

Claims 25-27 are pending to the present application and are currently under consideration. By virtue of this response, claim 27 has been amended. Amendment and cancellation of certain claims is not to be construed as dedication to the public of any of the subject matter previously presented.

***Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112***

Claim 27 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112 for reciting a limitation with insufficient antecedent basis, and as being incomplete for omitting essential steps, amount to a gap between the steps. Specifically, the Examiner remarks that a step is omitted between “forwarding the information request to the selected vendors” and “accepting responses from the recommendation engine based on information returned from the selected vendors.”

Claim 27 has been amended to address the Examiner’s remarks and particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

***Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102***

Claims 25-27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,717,923 to Dedrick. In claims 25 and 26, Applicant recites: “In a network including a plurality of network devices operated by a plurality of users, a method for retrieving member profile information that provides for selective real-time information exchange of member profile information between external network devices and an information exchange system...” Applicant respectfully submits Dedrick fails to teach or suggest providing “for selective real-time information exchange of member profile information between *external network devices* and an information exchange system.” (emphasis added)

Applicant submits that Dedrick discloses “an electronic information server containing a plurality of electronic information units is coupled to the client system via an electronic information distribution network and serves as the source of the electronic information” only in a local area network. (see Abstract and Summary of the Invention, col. 2, lines 19-23) In the sole description of the network, Dedrick describes: “FIG. 1 shows a network system 10 of one embodiment of the present invention. The network 10 includes a plurality of client systems 12 coupled to a metering server 14 within a local area network (LAN) 16.” (col. 2, lines 62-65) As such, Applicant respectfully submits that Dedrick fails to disclose a method for an exchange of information with an external network device.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits therefore that claims 25 and 26, are allowable.

In regards to claim 27, Applicant recites: “In a network including a plurality of network devices operated by a plurality of users, a method for pushing selected member profile information that provides for selective real-time information exchange of information between external network devices of a member and at least one selected vendor.” As per claims 25 and 26, Applicant respectfully submits that Dedrick does not disclose a method for pushing information from external network devices. Applicant respectfully submits therefore that claim 27, for the same reasons as stated above, is allowable.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the above, each of the presently pending claims in this application is believed to be in immediate condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw the outstanding rejection of the claims and to pass this application to issue. If it is determined that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number given below.

In the event the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office determines that an extension and/or other relief is required, Applicant petitions for any required relief including extensions of time and authorizes the Commissioner to charge the cost of such petitions and/or other fees due in connection with the filing of this document to Deposit Account No. 50-1847 referencing docket no. 21118037 (formerly 24225032). However, the Commissioner is not authorized to charge the cost of the issue fee to the Deposit Account.

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Respectfully submitted,

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